

PATENT
ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. 53394.000444
PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

III. REMARKS

A. In the Specification

This application is a continuation of co-pending Application Serial No. 09/685,610, filed October 11, 2000. The first paragraph of the specification has been modified to properly claim benefit to the parent application and to the provisional application that preceded it. The specification submitted with the continuation further includes changes that reflect amendments entered by the Examiner during prosecution of the parent application. These amendments were made to correct informalities or typographical errors in the specification. The Applicant respectfully submits that each of these amendments is fully supported by the specification as originally filed.

For example, in the Amendment dated January 10, 2003, units of measure for the bond static shear strength were converted from "min/kg" to "min/1.2kg" to conform to the units of measure in Table 1, which is now reflected in paragraphs 5, 6, 7 and 18 of the current application. Support for this amendment is found in Table 1. In addition, the word mark LYCRA was capitalized per the Examiners request, now reflected in paragraph 34 of the current application. A typographical error in the spelling of "traditional" was corrected, as reflected in paragraph 36 of the current application. And a grammatical error was corrected in paragraph 3, changing the word "are" to "is" in accordance with the Examiner's request.

In addition, during prosecution of the parent application, the Abstract of the Disclosure was amended per the Examiner's objections to the language used (Action dated 7/12/02), and to its length (Action dated 7/11/03). Both of the amendments addressing these informalities have been incorporated into the Abstract of the Disclosure paragraph in the continuation application.

The Applicant respectfully submits that the specification as filed in the continuation application does not include anything that would constitute new matter over what was presented in the original application.

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B. In the Drawings

Original Figures 1 and 3 have been submitted herewith in the continuation application. Figure 2 is presented in the continuation application to include amendments made during prosecution of the parent application in response to the Examiner's objections to discrepancies found in the original drawing figure. In specific, Figure 2 has been amended such that the lead line from reference character 28 was changed from a solid line to a dashed line, to indicate an underlying structure, and the lead lines from reference characters 40 and 46 (on the right side only) were corrected to properly indicate their respective portions of mechanical fastener 34, mirroring their counterparts on the left side of the drawing. In addition, a dashed line was added to delineate between ear tab 38 and the elastomer substrate 40. Support for each of these amendments are found in original Figure 2, particularly with reference to analogous structures depicted in the same drawing.

The Applicant respectfully submits that drawings as filed in the continuation application do not include anything that would constitute new matter over what was presented in the original application.

C. In the Claims

By this Preliminary Amendment, claims 1-10 are cancelled, and new claims 11-20 are presented for consideration by the Examiner. The Applicant respectfully submits that the new claims presented herein are fully supported by the specification, and do not include anything that would constitute new matter over what was presented in the original application.

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IV. CONCLUSION

Claims 11-20 are now pending in this application. The Applicant submits that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully solicited. Should there be anything further required to place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,
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Date: June 14, 2004

By:


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